

VZCZCXYZ3859
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLO #0639/01 0631706
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 031706Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7659
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 000639

SIPDIS

SIPDIS
NOFORN

EO 12958 DECL: 03/03/2018
TAGS PGOV, PREL, PINR, UK
SUBJECT: UK LABOUR SPRING CONFERENCE: GOOD INTENTIONS BUT
FEW GOOD VIBRATIONS
REF: LONDON 453

Classified By: Ambassador Robert Tuttle, reasons 1.4 b, d

11. (C/NF) Summary: The Labour Party Spring Conference, held February 27 - March 2 in Birmingham, was characterized by low energy, poor attendance. SIPDIS lauded Mayor Ken Livingstone for "revitalizing London" ahead of the hotly-contested May 1 mayoral race, without recalling that only eight

Brown: "Use the Opportunity of Power"

12. (C/NF) Labour's Spring Conference February 27-March 2 in Birmingham, billed as the launching event for the May 1 local elections, featured

13. (SBU) While Brown's speech focused largely on domestic issues, he did extend his analysis to the costs of poverty to the rest of the world,

14. (SBU) In a Q&A session that followed Brown's remarks, many of the questions from the audience had to do with the Labour government's managing ending poverty and eliminating disease globally. A Palestinian asking what Brown would do to end the conflict in Palestine provoked a rare outburst

Labour's Financial Woes

15. (C/NF) The lack of energy that hung like a pall over the keynote speech was evident elsewhere, either because of low attendance or the part

Female Recruitment

16. (C) Organized around three key themes, the Conference focused on recruiting female candidates, improving communications with minority communities

Reaching out to Muslim Voters

17. (C) Ten people (including Poloff) showed up at an event aimed at improving Labour outreach to Muslim communities. (Embassy comment: Given I

18. (SBU) Secretary for Communities and Local Government Hazel Blears led the way on Labour's achievements in local government. Birmingham's revitalized town center, including the conference center that was

Miliband's Star Power

19. (C/NF) In an otherwise low key conference, the frisson of excitement whenever Foreign Secretary David Miliband appeared was palpable. The F

Comment

110. (C/NF) Labour members have been increasingly asking themselves the same question raised by the student from Cardiff: what makes Labour "revitalize"?
Visit London's Classified Website: <http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/london/index.cfm> TUTTLE